

Companies as on 1.12.1999. The Oil Marketing Companies appoint Dealers / Distributors for retail outlets and SKO-LDO dealerships / LPG distributorships on the recommendations of the Dealer Selection Boards constituted by the Government. As a large number of locations are pending for the selection of dealers/distributors, Government have recently set up 57 new Dealer Selection Boards and with this the process of selection is on.

The Government lay down guidelines for appointment of Dealers / Distributors of petroleum products by Oil Marketing Companies on merit for making available petroleum products to the consumers. Interests of various categories viz. persons belonging to SC/ST, women, freedom fighters, defence personnel, outstanding sportsperson, physically handicapped, paramilitary / police / government personnel have been kept in view by providing reservation for them. Government are aware of the deregulated scenario after 31.3.2000.

News-item 'Swadeshi lobby irked over FDI in Refineries'

114. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Swadeshi lobby irked over FDI in refineries which appeared in the Business Standard (New Delhi), dated 13th June, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of adequate refining capacity in the country is one of the important policy concerns for ensuring oil security in the country which is heavily dependent on imports of crude oil. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is beneficial to the domestic refining industry in terms of augmenting longterm capital inflow into this risky business, access to modern technology for improving refining efficiency. Further, the expectation is that such a measure would augment existing sources of crude supply.

Review of performance of petroleum sector

115. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of petroleum

sector in terms of production, refining targets set and achieved for the past three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of broad indicators;

(c) the present requirement of petroleum products and projection for the next five years; and

(d) the extent of imports made during the past three years and estimated import and import Bill of the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government regularly reviews the performance of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) on Quarterly basis. The performance of Oil Companies in the public sector against target *vis-a-vis* achievements during the last three years is given below:—

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Crude Oil Production (in MMT)			
Target	30.78	31.30	29.10
Achievement	31.34	29.57	27.98
Gas Sales (MMSCM)			
Target	19437	20243	19897
Achievement	20292	20126	20545
Crude Throughput (In MMT)			
Target	59.4	63.7	67.8
Achievement	61.3	64.4	68.8

(c) The projected requirement of petroleum products for 2000-2001 is placed at 105 million tonnes. This is expected to go up to 148 million tonnes in 2006-07.

(d) The gross imports (including crude and products) made during the

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

last three years and original estimates for the current financial year 2000-2001 is given below:—

Fin. Year	Gross quantity (000 Tonnes)	Gross import Bill(\$ Million)
1997-98	57463	8074
1998-99	63580	6413
1999-2000	74423	12466
2000-01	93678	14253

Regulation of sale of Naptha and solvents

116. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to check the adulteration of diesel and petrol, Government have recently imposed restrictions on the sale, acquisition and storage of solvents and Naptha;

(b) whether it is also a fact that those engaged in the sale of Naptha and solvents shall file and endorse certificate from consumers and also furnish customer-wise sales to the District Magistrate or the State Civil Supplies Authorities on a quarterly basis; and

(c) if answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in affirmative, what new authority Government have created to ensure its compliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) To check the use of naptha and solvents for the purpose of adulteration of the petroleum products, the Government have promulgated the Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Order, 2000 and the Naptha (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Order, 2000.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the provision of the above Control Orders, is to be issued by the State Government or the District Magistrate or any other officers authorised by the Central or the State Government.